

Activity: Recreation Programs

Activity Summary

	FY 2005 Enacted	FY 2006 Estimate	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
			Fixed Costs & Related Changes	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Recreation Programs	543	546	+11	0	557	+11
Total Requirements	543	546	+11	0	557	+11
<i>Total FTE Requirements</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>0</i>

Mission Overview

Recreation Programs support the National Park Service mission by contributing to the goals for the National Park Service: 1) Natural and cultural resources are conserved through formal partnership programs; and 2) through partnerships with other Federal, State, and local agencies and nonprofit organizations, a nationwide system of parks, open space, rivers, and trails provide educational, recreational, and conservation benefits throughout the United States. These NPS goals in turn support the DOI goals to provide recreational opportunities for America and safeguard lives, property and assets, advance scientific knowledge, and improve the quality of life for communities we serve.

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) contributes to the DOI goal to increase recreational opportunities through partnerships, adding acres of park lands. FLP also contributes to the DOI goal to ensure continued public access to recreational opportunities and works toward compliance with 40 U.S.C. § 550(e) to ensure that properties are used as intended for public parks and recreation and natural and cultural resources are protected.

Activity Overview

Recreation Programs primarily covers the Federal Lands to Parks Program, which assists State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal real property for public parks and recreation areas and helping to ensure continued stewardship of transferred properties. This program also provides assistance to local communities and non-profits in the transfer of historic lighthouses under the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. The activity includes a range of planning, Federal coordination, technical assistance, and real estate transactions.

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The 2007 budget request for Recreation Programs is \$557,000 and 5 FTE, with no program changes from the 2006 enacted level.

Program Overview

The Federal Lands to Parks Program (FLP) places a priority on helping communities obtain Federal properties which have been declared surplus (that is, no longer needed by the Federal Government) for public parks and recreation use. The FLP program helps local communities preserve lands by facilitating transfer of surplus Federal properties (military, U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), or other) to local and State governments. This ensures long-term conservation by enabling local and State governments to manage locally important resources. In partnership with State and local governments, the FLP program contributes to community revitalization by providing new and expanded State and community parks, increasing close-to-home recreation opportunities (recognized as important to increasing health and wellness), and protecting open space and important natural and cultural resources. In addition to benefiting communities, the FLP program helps the Federal government reduce its unneeded inventory of Federal land and facilities.

The FLP program assists communities interested in acquiring surplus Federal land in filing their application, and acts as a broker between the applicant and the Federal disposing agency (typically the General Services Administration or the Department of Defense). The FLP program approves the community's application, recommends the property transfer, and prepares and conveys the deed (except for lighthouse properties), including any restrictions associated with the deed.



Memphis Distribution Depot, a former Army facility, which will be transferred to the City of Memphis, TN for use as a park in FY 2006.

Because recreational use does not have priority in Federal property disposal, the NPS plays an important role in helping States and communities compete among other potential interests by communicating their needs and demonstrating the importance of ensuring long-term protection of, and public access, to resources. The FLP program is the only Federal program that aids State and local governments in acquiring surplus Federal land for dedicated public recreation instead of paying fair market value.

Once transferred, the land must be used for public park and recreation in perpetuity. The NPS, under the Federal Property and Administration Services Act of 1949, is responsible for ensuring continued public access and resource protection to over 1,137 previously transferred properties. FLP carries out this requirement, to the extent funds permit, through site visits, follow-up contacts, technical assistance to communities, and deed and use agreement revisions. FLP increasingly relies on recipient reporting and citizen/user oversight to identify major issues.

The NPS, through FLP, has been a major partner with the Department of Defense (DOD) in the conversion of closed and realigned military bases under Base Realignment and Closure Acts (BRAC). In previous rounds of BRAC from 1988-1995, FLP staff received 135 requests to assist on 86 of the 97 military bases subject to closure or realignment. The NPS deeded 77 properties, including 11,163 acres, from 52 closed military bases in these BRAC rounds for public parks and recreation use. An additional 5 (1,700 acres) are in process to deed, and 14 community requests (3,935 acres) have been recommended by the Program and are awaiting military final approval for transfer. FLP will provide limited assistance with the 2005 BRAC round, i.e. identify new park and recreation opportunities and work effectively with State and local partners and military services.

In addition to the transfers of an increasing number of BRAC properties, the FLP program works with the GSA and State and local agencies to identify park and recreation opportunities and transfer other available Federal (non-BRAC) property (approximately 50% of FLP land transfers). FLP staff also assists, to a limited extent, in implementing the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act of 2000. In cooperation with the GSA and the U.S. Coast Guard, FLP assists potential local government and non-profit organization applicants, and reviews and recommends applications for historic lighthouses.

This program participated in the 2006 External Program – Technical Assistance PART evaluation, which received a rating of Adequate (53 percent).

① Find the Federal Lands to Parks Program online at www.nps.gov/flp.

FY 2007 Program Performance Estimates

In FY 2007, the Federal Lands to Parks Program plans to:

- Facilitate and complete approximately 18 land transfers from previous BRAC rounds, related properties (such as, potentially, Roosevelt Roads Naval Station, Puerto Rico, 3,600 acres; Mather AFB and Oakland Army Base, California CA) and other surplus Federal land (Badger Army Ammunition Plant, Wisconsin, 5,200 acres; Ohio River lock and dam sites) for public park and recreation areas.
- Continue to work with States, communities and DOD to resolve identified issues affecting transfer requests in process. Respond to major stewardship requests (e.g. third-party agreements, land exchanges, boundary adjustments, utility easements, rights-of-way, and use changes) received.

Focus will be to resolve major compliance issues regarding the 1,155 transferred properties (122,000 acres, estimated). Routine monitoring will be minimal, with greater reliance on recipient reporting.

- Limited participation in Federal coordination and providing community outreach and assistance regarding public park and recreation interests for 2005-listed military base closures and realignments (BRAC).

FY 2006 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2006, the Federal Lands to Parks Program plans to:

- Assist the Government Accounting Office in studying public benefit conveyance programs, including compliance of transferred property.
- Begin planning, participation in Federal coordination, and community outreach for 2005-listed military base closures and realignments (BRAC), working with the Department of Defense, the military services, Department of the Interior, and other public benefit sponsoring agencies.
- Deed approximately 18 properties from previous rounds of BRAC and other surplus Federal properties through the General Services Administration. For example:
 - USDA Research Lab and Field Station, California, 55 acres to City of Fresno for its 2nd largest developed park.
 - Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana, 1,450 acres – completion of State park created from base closure.
 - Savannah Army Ammunition Plant, IL, 183 acres.
 - Ohio River Army Corps of Engineers sites, Kentucky – Big Bone Access, Boone County; Caseyville Access, Union County. Access to Ohio River.
 - North Park Block, Portland, Oregon – 1st extension of downtown park promenade blocks since 1869.
 - Memphis Distribution Depot, Tennessee, 64 acres, to City of Memphis for a multi-purpose park.
- Assist States and local governments in acquiring newly available properties (historic waterfront in Southport, North Carolina; Ohio River lock and dam in Patriot, Indiana; rail-trail in Charles County, Maryland; and others) and those already in process for public parks and recreation (such as Badger Army Ammunition Plant, 5,200 acres, for addition to Devils Lake State Park in Sauk County, Wisconsin).
- Respond to stewardship requests (licenses, land exchanges, leases, concession agreements, utility easements, rights-of-way, and use changes) and identified compliance issues for the 1,137 properties (120,450 acres) that have already been transferred to ensure conservation and recreational opportunity and legal compliance.

FY 2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

In FY 2005, the Federal Lands to Parks Program:

- Completed 2005 surveys to evaluate customer satisfaction with FY 2004 assistance activities, in compliance with the Government Performance and Results Act (Result: 100% satisfied).
- Deeded 17 surplus Federal properties (860 acres) in 15 states.
- Deeded the Coast Guard for Long Range Navigation (LORAN) station (231 acres) to the City of Galveston, Texas, for public beach access, protection of the coastal wetland/beach dune habitat, and nature study, including nature trails and wildlife observation stations. Located between two parcels previously transferred under the FLP program, the entire east end of Galveston Island is now protected.
- Transferred four sites (156 acres) in Kentucky in a continued effort to help communities along the Ohio River acquire former Army Corps of Engineers properties for boating access and waterfront parks (Givens Creek, Dyers Creek, Birdsville Access site, Smithland Lock and Dam). The Ohio River case study of previous, related transfers can be viewed at www.nps.gov/flp/ohio_river.pdf.
- Responded to stewardship requests received and continued working on resolution of ongoing issues. The 1,120 previously transferred properties (119,500 acres) are subject to NPS oversight. Conducted approximately 65 site visits to monitor, identify and help resolve compliance issues, and assist communities with stewardship requests.

Performance Overview

NOTE: This table does not include any proposed goal and measure changes resulting from the DOI Strategic Plan update now underway. See Performance Summary Tab for details.

Measure	2005 Plan	2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	2006 Enacted	2006 Change from 2005	2007 Request	2007 Change from 2006
Partner acres available for recreation ¹ (SP, BUR IIIb1C)	500	860	+ 360	1,500	+640	500	-1,000

¹ This goal is also supported by Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance, and LASA: State Conservation Grants.